

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

This fact sheet is printed on paper made of recycled fibers

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Cheryl Allen
EPA Region 5
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

form and mail it to:

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, you are not on the mailing list for the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site. To add your name or make a correction, fill out this

Mailing List Additions



For More Information...

Please contact any team member below:

Shari Kolak
Remedial Project Manager
 (312) 886-6151 or
 (800) 621-8431 Ext. 66151
 e-mail: kolak.shari@epa.gov

Cheryl Allen
Community Involvement
Coordinator
(312) 353-6196 or
(800) 621-8431 Ext. 36196
e-mail: allen.cheryl@epa.gov

Don de Blasio
Community Involvement
Coordinator
(312) 886-4360 or
(800) 621-8431 Ext. 64360
e-mail: deblasio.don@epa.gov

Dave Novak
Community Involvement
Coordinator
(312) 886-7478 or
(800) 621-8431 Ext. 67478
e-mail: novak.dave@epa.gov

Visit the website at:
www.epa.gov/region5/sites/kalproject

List continues on page 3.

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois, Indiana,
Michigan, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

EPA Update

Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site

Kalamazoo & Allegan County, Michigan

August 2002

This update provides the overall plan and schedule for future site cleanup activities now that the site management has been transferred from the State of Michigan to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EPA's cleanup plan for the Kalamazoo River is to first eliminate on-going sources of PCBs - polychlorinated biphenyls - contamination, which include exposed paper wastes along the river bank, and then address in-stream sediments. EPA's cleanup will begin upstream and work downstream on a reach-by-reach or dam-to-dam basis. EPA will address the Phase I portion of the river (Morrow Pond Dam to Lake Allegan) first and then the Phase II portion (Lake Allegan Dam to Lake Michigan).

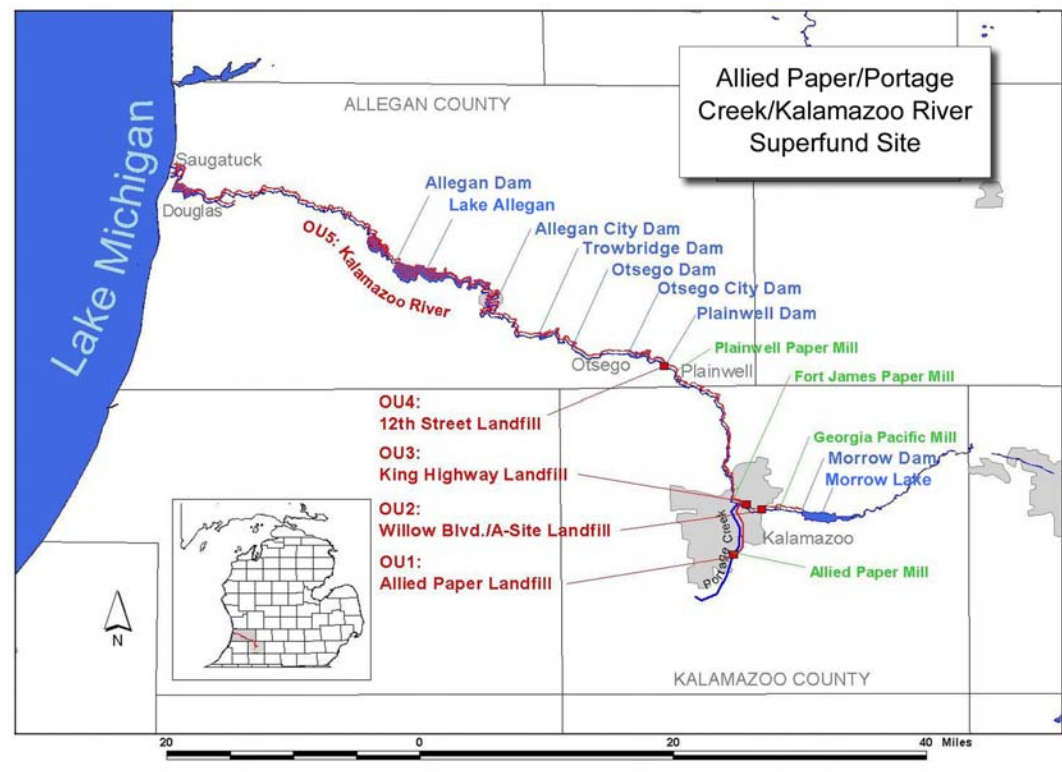
EPA's phased approach to controlling the on-going spread of contamination and reducing risks is consistent with the National Research Council's report titled "A Risk Management Strategy for PCB-Contaminated Sediments" and EPA national guidance titled "Principles for Managing Contaminated Sediment Risks at Hazardous Waste Sites." The NRC report can be found at www.nrc.edu and EPA guidance at www.epa.gov/superfund/resources/remedy/pdf/92-85608.pdf.

Morrow Lake

Before evaluating cleanup options for in-stream sediments, EPA will investigate upstream sources of PCBs to Morrow Lake. EPA will also evaluate existing landfills and paper mill properties to ensure they are not a source of PCBs to the river.

Plainwell and Otsego City Impoundments

EPA will issue a Proposed Plan for the Plainwell and Otsego City Impoundments in the spring/summer of 2003. The timeline for the PP includes an EPA review of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan in the summer of 2002, the RI Report in the winter of 2002, and the FS Report in the spring of 2003. EPA expects to issue a Record of Decision in the summer/fall 2003, depending upon the technical nature and/or volume of public comments received on the PP.



Site Location Map

Otsego, Trowbridge and Allegan City Impoundments and Lake Allegan

EPA will negotiate an agreement with the paper companies (Millennium Holdings, Inc./Allied Paper, Inc., Georgia-Pacific Corporation, Plainwell Paper Inc., and Fort James Corporation) to carry out a sampling plan for the Otsego, Trowbridge and Allegan City Impoundments and Lake Allegan. This plan will help refine sediment volumes so that viable cleanup options can be evaluated and implemented. EPA will negotiate an agreement with the paper companies to conduct a RI/FS for these downstream areas. EPA is prepared to use its Superfund enforcement authorities if the RI/FS is delayed or is technically inadequate.

Status of Operable Units

The status of the five operable units of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site are summarized below.

Allied Paper Landfill (OU1): In 1998, EPA conducted a removal action in the former Bryant Mill Pond. Approximately 150,000 tons of PCB-contaminated waste was removed resulting in an average post-cleanup sediment concentration of less than 1 parts per million.

For the Allied Paper landfill, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will retain the enforcement lead until the RI is completed, which is expected to be in the spring of 2003. EPA will take the lead on the FS and the ROD and will oversee implementation of the Remedial Design/Remedial Action. The ROD is expected to be issued in the fall of 2004.

Willow Boulevard/A-Site Landfill (OU2): MDEQ will retain the lead until the FS is completed, which is expected to be in the summer/fall of 2002. EPA will take the lead on developing a PP, which is expected to be completed in the fall/winter of 2002 and issuing the ROD, which is expected in the winter of 2002/2003. EPA will oversee the implementation of the RD/RA.

King Highway Landfill (OU3): MDEQ will retain the lead on completion of the remedial action and will oversee the long-term monitoring. The ROD was issued in 1997.

12th Street Landfill (OU4): EPA has the lead and will oversee the RD/RA. The ROD was issued in September 2001.

Kalamazoo River (OU5): EPA will complete the RI/FS for the Plainwell and Otsego City Impoundments and issue a PP in the spring/summer of 2003. A ROD is expected to be issued in the summer/fall of 2003. Simultaneously, EPA will negotiate an agreement with the paper companies to complete the RI/FS for the remaining downstream impoundments and Lake Allegan. Before evaluating remedies for in-stream sediments, EPA will investigate upstream sources of PCBs to Morrow Lake. EPA will also evaluate existing landfills and mill properties to ensure they are not a source of PCBs to the river.

Definitions

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) - a mixture of individual chemicals which are no longer produced in the United States, but are still found in the environment. PCBs are oily liquids or solids that are colorless to light yellow with no known smell or taste. PCBs can exist as a vapor. They were used as coolants and lubricants in electrical equipment because they don't burn easily and are good insulators. From the late 1950s to the 1970s, PCBs were used in the manufacture of carbonless copy paper. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects.

Proposed Plan (PP) - a plan for a site cleanup that is available to the public for comment.

Record of Decision (ROD) - a public document that explains which cleanup alternatives will be used to clean up a Superfund site. The ROD for sites listed on the National Priorities List is created from information generated during the RI/FS.

Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) - remedial design is the phase in Superfund site cleanup where the technical specifications for cleanup remedies and technologies are designed. Remedial action follows the remedial design phase and involves the actual construction or implementation phase of Superfund site cleanup. The RD/RA is based on the specifications described in the record of decision.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) - after a site is listed on the National Priorities List, a remedial investigation/feasibility study is performed at the site. The RI serves as the mechanism for collecting data, while the FS is the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of alternative remedial actions. The RI and FS are conducted concurrently. Data collected in the RI influence the development of remedial alternatives in the FS, which in turn affect the data needs and scope of treatability studies and additional field investigations.

For More Information... Continued

Site-related documents may be reviewed at:

Kalamazoo Public Library
315 South Rose
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Charles Ransom Library
180 South Sherwood
Plainwell, Michigan

Allegan Public Library
331 Hubbard Street
Allegan, Michigan

Otsego District Library
219 South Farmer Street
Otsego, Michigan

Waldo Library
Western Michigan University
1903 West Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Saugatuck-Douglas Library
10 Mixer Street
Douglas, Michigan